Visit of Pak Army Chief to India

1679. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :
SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the response to India's invitation to Pakistan's Chief of the Army to visit India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : Pakistan has in principle, accepted our invitation to its Chief of Army Staff to visit India. Dates of the visit will be determined in due course.

Admission to foreign students by I.C.C.R.

1680. SHRI J. S. RAJU :

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in Indian Express dated 11 October, 1992 regarding the bungling of the I.C.C.R. in giving admission to foreign students in Indian Universities; and

(b) if so, what steps are to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the academic year 1992-93, 68 scholarships were offered to Sri Lanka by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) under various schemes. Applications were actually received from 62 candidates only, including 23 female candidates, as late as June 1992 whereas the last date for receipt of applications was 31-3-1992. Out of these 62 applications from Sri Lankan students, the ICCR has been able to finalize 32 admissions, including for 11 female candidates. The female candidate referred to in the news item was also offered admission in the Jamia Millia Islamia in the subject of her choice.

भारत और दक्षिण अफ्रीका के बीच द्विपक्षीय संबंध

1681. श्री महेन्द्र सिंह लाठर :
श्री विट्ठलराव माधवराव गांधी : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि दक्षिण अफ्रीका के साथ द्विपक्षीय संबंधों में सुधार लाने के लिए सरकार विशेष ध्यान दे रही है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उन सेवाओं और उद्योगों का ब्यौरा क्या है जिनके संबंध में भारत सरकार ने दक्षिण अफ्रीका और इजरायल के विचारार्थ प्रस्ताव भेजे हैं और इन देशों की इस संबंध में क्या प्रतिक्रिया है; और

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि सरकार डरबन में एक नया सांस्कृतिक केन्द्र खोलने और दक्षिण अफ्रीका के साथ विमान सेवा आरम्भ करने पर विचार कर रही है ?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एडुआर्डो फेलेरो) : (क) हरारे में 1991 में राष्ट्रमण्डल देशों के शासन प्रधानों की बैठक में लिए गए निर्णय के अनुरूप भारत ने दक्षिण अफ्रीका के साथ "व्यक्ति से व्यक्ति" सम्पर्कों पर से प्रतिबंध हटा लिया है जैसे कि कौंसली, वीजा, पर्यटक, सांस्कृतिक, वैज्ञानिक और चुने हुए खेलों पर से प्रतिबंध हटाना।

(ख) दक्षिण अफ्रीका : प्रश्न नहीं उठता क्योंकि भारत के अधिकारिक राजनयिक संबंध नहीं हैं।

इजरायल : भारत और इजरायल के बीच परस्पर लाभ के लिए सहयोग के चुने गए क्षेत्रों में कृषि, विज्ञान एवं प्रौद्योगिकी, सौर ऊर्जा, संस्कृति, नागर विमानन, पर्यटन और व्यापार व उद्योग शामिल हैं। नागर विमानन, पर्यटन, कृषि और

ऊर्जा और व्यापार व उद्योग के क्षेत्रों में सहयोग की संभावनाओं की जांच करने के लिए प्रतिनिधि मण्डलों ने यात्राएं की हैं ।

(ग)"व्यक्ति से व्यक्ति" सम्पर्क को बढ़ावा देने के लिए सरकार दक्षिण अफ्रीका में एक उपयुक्त स्थान पर सांस्कृतिक केन्द्र खोलने का प्रस्ताव रखती है । दक्षिण अफ्रीका के साथ सीधा वायु सम्पर्क स्थापित करने के लिए प्रस्ताव की सक्रिय रूप से जांच की जा रही है ।

Afgan Refugees in Delhi Camps

1682. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Afghan refugees are in a state of despair in Delhi refugees camps; and

(b) whether Government are negotiating with Afghanistan Government for their return to Afghanistan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) Afghan nationals who are residing in Delhi have made their own arrangements of stay. Many of them are staying in private camps. Government are not running any camp for Afghan nationals in Delhi at present.

(b) Government expect these Afghans to return as soon the situation in Afghanistan stabilises. Government are in touch with the Government of Afghanistan in this regard.

Restriction on Indian Space and Missile Programme by Western Powers

1683. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Western powers have placed restrictions on country's space and missile programmes while ignoring similar programmes of China and Pakistan;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in a bid to scuttle the country's missile programme, Western powers are trying to place the successfully test fired "Prithvi" under the missile control technology regime (MTCR); and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof, stating Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO) : (a) At present 22 countries (Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, New Zealand, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, U. K. and USA) are members of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR). The objective of MTCR has been to restrict transfers of missile equipment and certain kinds of space related technology which is capable of being used for missile development. The MTCR is not an international treaty, but it is an ad hoc export control regime and its member states implement its (MTCR) provisions through their respective national legislations.

Under its legislation arising out of MTCR related obligations, the U.S. Government imposed sanctions on Dept. of Space and Indian Space Research Organization on May 11, 1992. Subsequently, in June 1992, the U.S. Government notified a list of countries with respect to specific projects to which U.S. companies cannot report without licences if they have reason to believe that the product would be used for missile design, development, production and use. India is mentioned in this list along with China and Pakistan.

(b) The MTCR is aimed at preventing proliferation of ballistic missiles having a range of more than 300 Kms. and a warhead of more than 500 kgs. weight. "PRITHVI" missile is being developed in two versions—150 Kms. range and a 250 Kms. range. Therefore, strictly speaking Prithvi should not attract MTCR related restrictions though, in the recent past, these restrictions have been imposed on the ground that Prithvi comes close to the MTCR threshold.